



# Clearwater

*Dhahran Dive Association Newsletter*

*April/May 2006*  
*"Coral Reef Edition"*

## **A WORD FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**

***Radi Adzemovic, President 2006***

Since the February March issue the DDA participated in the annual SAEA Fun Fest and was awarded first place. The photos, banners, videos, brochures, equipment and DDA volunteers who manned the booth were great. The major attraction however was having dive certified youngsters in a dunk tank showing SCUBA in use. Deb Nanninga's idea to use the tank and her hard work spearheading this effort made this award winning booth a great way to show the community what the DDA offers and the beauty of diving.

The board is organizing the first DDA photo/video contest. The rules and categories will be announced soon and will offer a more focused and formal venue for all the talented DDA photographers to showcase their work. An awards ceremony will be held in the Fall to honor all the winners. This promises to be a fun addition to our annual calendar and may spark interest in offering a DDA underwater photography workshop.

Last month we saw great footage and photos from a recent Maldives trip and this month we saw how two of our members went to Um Lujj. Both presentations whet my appetite as I have not been in SCUBA gear since September. These members worked hard to prepare great presentations. We are fortunate to have such active and talented members. We have more superb presentations lined up. Don't miss our next monthly meeting when Graham Corfield presents diving the HMS Repulse, Prince of Wales in South China Sea. His presentation last year was amazing.

Enjoy the upcoming dive season. Take great photos and movies. Be safe and smart underwater. And come out to have dinner with us on the last Monday of the month.

## **DDA MONTHLY MEETINGS**

DDA monthly meetings are held on the last Monday of the month at Ad-Diwan, Room 1, doors open at 6:00pm with a catered buffet dinner and door prizes.

SR40 for members / SR50 for guests / SR20 for kids aged 12 and under (this month only).

### ***Our next Monthly Meeting is:***

- **Monday, June 26** (the last Monday of the month) "DDA Monthly Meeting" to be held in Ad-Diwan, ROOM 1 @ 6.00pm.

## **CORALS (*Astra eidae*)**

Coral reefs, restricted to warmer oceans, would seem almost like geological formations, yet are created by living animals of great beauty and variety. The corals shown here are the elkhorn (top); sea whip (upper right); stinging coral (left); gorgonia (left center); star coral (right center); and brain coral (bottom right). In warmer oceans stony coral jungles replace the seaweed forests of colder seas in sheltering and supporting a rich community of other animal life.



## CREATURE PROFILE FEATURE

By James Vandervyver

### Silvertip Shark-*Carcharhinus albimarginatus*

Kingdom [Animalia](#)-- animals

Phylum [Chordata](#)-- chordates

Subphylum [Vertebrata](#)-- vertebrates

Class [Chondrichthyes](#)-- cartilaginous fishes, rays

Subclass [Elasmobranchii](#)--cartilaginous fishes, rays

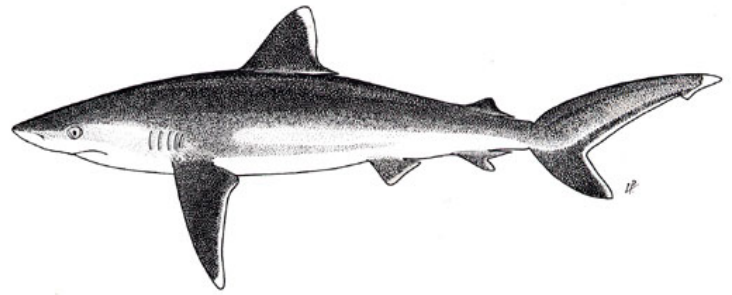
Superorder [Euselachii](#)

Order [Carcharhiniformes](#)-- ground sharks

Family [Carcharhinidae](#)-- requiem sharks

Genus [Carcharhinus](#)-- gray sharks

Species *Carcharhinus albimarginatus*-silvertip shark



### Biology

#### Distinctive Features

The silvertip shark is slender with a long and broadly rounded snout. The eyes are large and round. An interdorsal ridge is present on this species. The first dorsal fin is large with a pointed apex. It originates over or slightly in front of the free tips of the pectoral fins. The second dorsal fin originates over or just behind the origin of the anal fin. The pectoral fins are large and semifalcate with narrowly rounded

#### Coloration

The body is dark gray or gray-brown with a bronzy sheen, fading to a white ventral side. An inconspicuous white band is located on the flank region. This shark's common name "silvertip shark" is in reference to the conspicuous white tips and trailing margins on all of its fins. The silvertip may be confused with grey reef sharks (*Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos*), however the grey reef shark has dark tips on the pectoral fins and trailing edge of the caudal fin. Also, the whitetip reef shark (*Triaenodon obesus*) is similar in appearance to the silvertip shark. Although both shark species have white markings on the dorsal and caudal fins, the whitetip reef shark lacks this marking on the tips of the pectoral fins. The whitetip reef shark also has a more square-shaped snout.

### Common Names

English language common names include silvertip shark, silver-tip shark, and white fin. Common names in other languages include aileron blanc du récif (French), aso (Samoan), bagea mara (Gela), cazon (Spanish), gursh (Arabic), iho (Surigaonon), ikan yu (Malay), jarjur (Arabic), kattafulhi miyaru (Maldivian), marracho de pontas (Portuguese), mwoashog (Carolinian), pating (Tagalog), requin pointe blanche (French), riff-weißspitzenhai (German), silwertiphaai (Afrikaans), te bakoa (Kiribati), tiburón de puntas blancas (Spanish), tsumajiro (Japanese), and zarlacz srebrnopletwy (Polish)



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## DIVE HUMOUR



### Classic things Instructors say.....

- What part of this did you understand?
- You couldn't make it to class because your what died?
- I see....., you just forgot to mention the epilepsy
- Yes, I know you were scared, but don't ever bite me again!
- You should've been here last week, the vis was great
- You didn't see the whale shark?
- You don't want to do the buddy breathing because you have what!
- Welcome to the food chain folks, you are no longer on the top!
- Don't worry about this dive unless:
  - You hear the theme music from JAWS
  - You see someone's foot hanging out of a fish's mouth
  - All the fish on the reef disappear
  - You see the boat pass you as you're going down the shot line.



### Shipwrecked....

A diver was shipwrecked up onto a lonely and tropical shore. As he stood up he noticed his hands were purple, he looked at his feet, and they were purple, worriedly he unzipped his wetsuit and his chest and stomach were purple. With his head in his hands he cried, "Oh my God!, I've been marooned!"



### U/W PHOTOGRAPHER COMPETITION

DAN Europe has an excellent competition website for underwater photographers and enthusiasts. Get your entries in or just browse the collection of photos.

"<http://www.daneurope.org/photocontest/eng/>"



### HANDY LINKS

1. Ocean Biogeographic System – Species Database: Mapped database of Marine Species of the world. <http://www.iobis.org>
2. Scuba Diving Magazine and other interesting dive articles. <http://www.scubadiver.com>
3. DAN Europe divers alert network for dive insurance. <http://www.daneurope.org>
4. The Wet Gazette free monthly Scuba Diving newsletter. <http://www.thewetgazette.com>

## BAREBOAT CHARTER WHITSUNDAYS

*By Sheryl Wright*

If you'd like to try a dive experience with a difference then bareboat chartering may be for you. On a recent trip to Australia's Great Barrier Reef I and I hired a 36 foot Beneteau yacht for 7 days with a group of friends. We planned our own course around the myriad of 100 beautiful islands and fringing reefs that border the Whitsunday passage. The Whitsundays is located 1000 km north of Brisbane and 2000 km north of Sydney, on the east coast of Australia. It is at the heart of the Great Barrier Reef at about 21 degrees South.



You need to have some boating experience and a basic sailing qualification is an advantage. On the first day you are given a comprehensive yacht and local area briefing. Lessons are also available for those who need to fine tune their sailing skills. The Cumberland Yachts charter company we used was excellent in ensuring a safe and pleasurable trip. On the first day we loaded 4 adults, 2 kids and 2 large trolleys full of our food, drinks, clothes, fishing and dive equipment onto our yacht called 'Nomad'. I thought the yacht was well named due to our roaming plans for the week. We really didn't know where everything was going to fit but amazingly we found plenty of storage areas and a place for everything including dive tanks and equipment.



**"Nomad" – 36 foot Beneteau yacht**

We sailed out of Abel Point Marina mid-morning across the passage navigating towards our first mooring for the night. The conditions were excellent with a 15 to 20 knot wind which gave us all an opportunity to get our sea legs and a feel for the boat. The scenery was breathtaking and we all got a taste of the wind, waves and salt spray on our faces as we tweaked with the sails and steering. The kids were sea sick on the first day but they said 'chucking up sure gave them an appetite' when we finally reached our first protected overnight mooring at Nara Inlet around 2pm. We had plenty of time to go on land and explore ancient aboriginal cave paintings before returning to the boat, enjoying sundowners, fishing for reef fish (whilst catching the odd shark) and preparing the evenings dinner on the boat BBQ. During the following days we would sail to other destinations with a similar routine while stopping off to snorkel or dive along the way.



**Sweetlips for lunch (we released all other fish)**

Our favorite diving and snorkeling site was called Maureen's Cove off Hayman Island. The kids loved the variety of fish and corals found in shallow water off this coral bay. There were potato cods, bumphead parrot fish, sweetlips, crayfish, wrasse, giant bat fish and a huge variety of spectacular corals. We took our dive gear in the tender to deeper water and were amazed at the colorful coral bommies and surrounding sea life. It was truly spectacular diving and we were the only two divers in the water! That afternoon we headed off around the point for a safe mooring. We dived another site off our mooring but it didn't compare to the cove so we headed back again the next day for another dive which was just as rewarding. The kids just couldn't get enough snorkeling so we based our lunch and leisure time around getting them in and out of the water. We all had to wear

lycra suits due to the possibility of coming in contact with deadly stingers (yes Australia has many nasties). The kids remarked that this is one place where you don't want to swim 'commando'!



### **Snorkelling Team**

Well time, wind, tide and lack of supplies mainly water made us head south eventually to Hamilton Island. What a great place this was to visit for dinner, long hot showers, refresh of supplies and a walk around. This is truly one resort worth visiting either by boat or scheduled flight. They even have a koala sanctuary on the island and great facilities for children including water sports.



### **Hamilton Island**

After a morning storm at Hamilton Island we decided to head further south to the famous Whitehaven Beach. The weather forecast didn't prepare us for what was ahead. The tide and wind was against us, the wind gusted up to 30 knots and we were sailing in over 2.5 to 3 metre swells. The kids definitely weren't happy and the adults were all hands on deck navigating, steering, adjusting the sails and keeping a watchful eye on the horizon. We entered the safety of Whitehaven in time for a late lunch on the pristine white beach. The memories of the rough sea journey we had just battled through were soon forgotten. The 5km beach was pure

white sand and the water was crystal clear blue and totally unspoiled. A large green turtle dived in the waves next to the children as they swam. This was definitely paradise on earth! The photo doesn't even come close to the real beauty of the location.



### **Whitehaven Beach**

We decided to find anchorage that night at Chalkies Beach just a short sail across the bay. The kids soon discovered that the fishing was excellent in this spot and by the time we had done our first morning dive they had 6 good sized sweetlips ready for lunch. Well we had a great dive too and found a UHF radio, masks, snorkels and other items that unfortunate people had lost before us. We also watched a bailer shell out feeding along the corals which was a first time and memorable experience for me.



### **Whitehaven Beach**

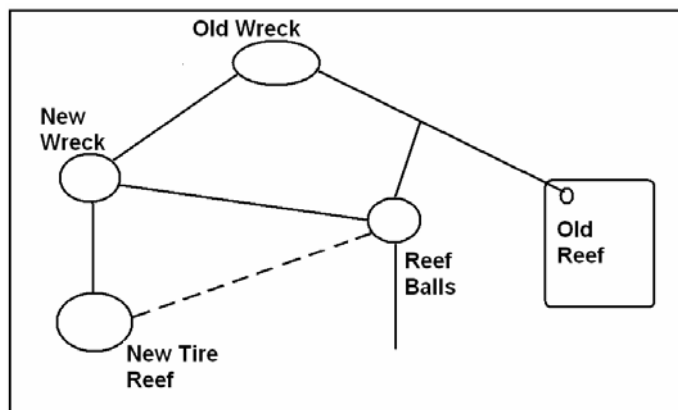
The next day we slowly started to make our way back to civilization. We will never forget our experience and the kids thought it was a holiday of a lifetime. If you are interested in finding out more about chartering in the region there are many good websites to browse. We used Cumberland Yachts (<http://www.ccy.com.au/>) and recommend their service. Sunsail and the Moorings were other popular charter companies.

## BUILDING A NEW TIRE REEF

By Colin Knight

This initiative was kicked off by Rick Owen, who advised us that the AAA wished to dispose of some used tires. A number of our divers and DDA members moved 80 tires to the dive beach over two weekends and sunk them in the dive area. I recently worked with the following divers to build up the reef: Mike Yeomans (tire transport and in water support), Jim Deschenes and Rene Seco (tire preparation – drilling holes in tires, creating blocks of six tires and moving to the drop-off), David and Davey Owen (in water support and underwater photography). Thanks to all for their hard work. We now have a larger reef here where previously we had a bath, trash bin, one lot of tires and some chairs. The reef is on the left facing the sea, marked by a white buoy. We hope this will now attract more marine life, especially fish, to match the amount on the old reef. This should make student dives more interesting and provide more fun for everyone using the dive area.

In addition we laid line to join the new tire reef to the new wrecks and the reef balls. Dive classes and refreshers can now follow line around all the reef features in the dive area. We also raised the left boundary line off the bottom using tires and floats so that divers do not stray out of the dive area - the sea grass has hidden the line at certain times so the year.



Note: dotted line will be laid later.

**Reef History** - Two of the reef features in our dive area were the result of Eagle Scout projects (Old Wreck and Reef Balls), and the new wreck was created by Rick Owen, David & Davey Owen, Michael Pham last year.

As a result of all these initiatives our dive training area has attracted more marine life, and become more interesting for everyone.

### More work to be done

There are another 70 tires left at AAA to be added to the New reef. I will be able to continue work on these from July, but if anyone would like to carry on the work meanwhile, please contact me for advice on how to accomplish this.



Colin positioning some tires (all photos by David Owen)



Raising the boundary line with golf cart tires

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## IN THE NEWS

*Submitted by Richard Owen*

### New Animal Resembling Furry Lobster Found



*AP News - Tue Mar 7, 9:28 PM ET*

**PARIS, France (AP)** - A team of American-led divers has discovered a new crustacean in the South Pacific that resembles a lobster and is covered with what looks like silky, blond fur, French researchers said Tuesday.

Scientists said the animal, which they named '**Kiwa hirsuta**', was so distinct from other species that they created a new family and genus for it.

The divers found the animal in waters **7,540 feet deep** at a site 900 miles south of **Easter Island** last year, according to Michel Segonzac of the French Institute for Sea Exploration.

The new crustacean is described in the journal of the National Museum of Natural History in Paris. In what Segonzac described as a "surprising characteristic," the animal's pincers are covered with sinuous, hair-like strands. It is also blind. The researchers found it had only "the vestige of a membrane" in place of eyes, Segonzac said.

The researchers said that while legions of new ocean species are discovered each year, it is quite rare to find one that merits a new family. The family was named Kiwaida, from Kiwa, the goddess of crustaceans in Polynesian mythology.

The diving expedition was organized by Robert Vrijenhoek of the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute in California.



*The New Wreck*



*Jim and Rene preparing tires.*



*Buoy marking new tire reef.*

## **ANCIENT COINS RETURNED TO SAUDI ARABIA** *submitted by Alfred Vouk*

*By Jerry Seper, Washington Times March 7, 2006*

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has returned to the Saudi government more than 130 pounds of ancient coins that agents seized from a man who had removed them illegally from a shipwreck in the Red Sea. "Artifacts such as these coins are not trinkets that can be pilfered and sold to the highest bidder," said Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Julie L. Myers, who heads ICE. "To their rightful owners, these artifacts are priceless items that are cherished and proudly displayed as a testament to their cultural history."

A tip by a confidential informant to ICE in Miami resulted in an investigation that led agents to a Key West, Fla., man who admitted to taking the coins improperly while spearfishing in an area near Jidda in Saudi Arabia in 1994, said ICE spokesman Marc Raimondi. Records show that the Florida man, who was not identified, communicated in Internet chat rooms that focused on Islamic coins in order to learn how to restore the coins and solicit buyers. Agents engaged the man by e-mail, eventually identifying themselves as ICE agents and later confronting him in person.

Mr. Raimondi said the man later voluntarily surrendered the coins to the agents. Prosecutors in Miami later declined to bring charges against the man. The coins were taken by ICE to a professor of archeology at the Florida Atlantic University, who conducted a cursory assessment of them. The professor later identified them as being from the Muslim world, dating from the 13th to 14th century and possibly associated with the Mongol dynasties in the region. ICE has returned more than 800 restored ancient coins and other encrusted coins that had not been cleaned and restored.

The coins, Mr. Raimondi said, could have belonged to pilgrims who lost their lives while taking part in hajj, a pilgrimage to Mecca in modern-day Saudi Arabia. Hajj is one of the five pillars of Sunni Islam. "These coins are treasured artifacts that reflect the cultural heritage of humanity, as well as Saudi Arabia's unique history as an ancient trade center and as the birthplace

of Islam," said Saudi Ambassador Prince Turki al-Faisal. "Their recovery and return to the kingdom is an example of the deep friendship between Saudi Arabia and the United States and the respect the U.S. has for cultural heritage."

## **EXPLOSIVE STING OF JELLYFISH CAPTURED ON FILM** *submitted by Alfred Vouk*

The explosion of stingers released when a jellyfish brushes against its victim has been captured for the first time on film – and the footage shows what may be the fastest cellular process in nature.

To view the action, researchers had to use the most rapid camera available. It takes 1.4 million frames per second and was designed to capture the flight of speeding bullets.

"We were able to watch the whole, amazingly powerful process for the first time, and it is ingenious," says Thomas Holstein at the University of Frankfurt in Germany.



*The jellyfish used in the study was a freshwater polyp hydra, which carries thousands of stinger cells in each of its tentacles (Image: Timm Nuechter and Thomas Holstein)*

Miniature stinger cells, called nematocysts, cloak the tentacles of jellyfish in their thousands and each harbours a deadly cocktail of toxins that attack the nerves and blood of their victims. Injecting the poisons into prey requires a discharge forceful enough to break through the shells of crustaceans.

Just how forceful was not known until Holstein filmed the dramatic two-step propulsion sequence, which consists of the release of a

molecular spring mechanism followed by high-pressure discharge.

### **Strong as steel**

The poisons are dissolved in a highly concentrated (2 molar) saline solution contained inside a vesicle within the nematocyst. The vesicle is held shut under the tension created by a rigid molecular collagen structure with a strength equivalent to that of steel, Holstein explains.

When the tentacle touches its prey the lid of the nematocyst flips open, triggering the folded collagen spring to release outwards. This ejects a sharp spine, known as a stylet. The stylet pierces the external barrier of the prey with a pressure of more than 7 billion Pascals – in the range of that generated by a bullet fired from a gun.

“These creatures evolved this sophisticated technique more than 500 million years ago and it's the earliest known use of collagen,” he says.

Attached to the stylet, and trailing behind, is a long tubular structure, one end of which remains in the vesicle. The injection step relies on osmotic pressure generated by the solution in the vesicle, which is at a higher concentration than that in the external liquid.

This pressure – about 15 million Pascals – forces the poisons up the tubular structure and into the prey, much like a squirt from a syringe, Holstein says. View a [video of the explosive release](#) of the stinger, filmed in this case at 240,000 frames per second (143kb .mov file, Credit: Thomas Holstein/Austrian Mediathek).

Holstein and colleagues filmed a small freshwater jellyfish, called a polyp hydra, that is about 1 centimetre long and is in fact harmless to humans. Although its stylets are fired at extreme speed, they are very small and cannot penetrate our relatively thick skin. However, the same mechanism is used very effectively on humans by box jellyfish and related organisms such as corals.

## **FLORIDA GAINS LARGEST REEF**

*The former American aircraft carrier USS Oriskany has been sunk off Florida, making it the world's largest artificial reef.*



The 271m-long, 32,000-ton ship was sent to the bottom 24 miles off Pensacola, at the western end of Florida about 160 miles east of New Orleans. The wreck lies in 65m of water, which may sound deep for the average sport scuba diver. However, if the ship settled bolt upright, divers will be touching down on its superstructure in just 19m at mean low water.

After the detonation of 22 charges by demolition experts, the giant, rust-streaked grey hulk took just over half an hour to sink, going down stern first. Spectators aboard hundreds of boats, surrounding the carrier at a mile's distance, included many former servicemen connected with the vessel. The USS Oriskany, which could accommodate 3460 crew and 80 aircraft, was launched in 1950 and saw action in the Korean and Vietnam wars. It was also among the American fleet deployed during the Cuban missile crisis of 1962.

The ship was decommissioned in 1976 and is the first of a number of old vessels that the US Navy plans to sink as artificial reefs and diving attractions rather than to break up for scrap.

To that end, the Navy has financed the bulk of costs. Just over \$13 million covered the scuttling plus years of preparatory work including the removal of toxic materials and disassembly of the mast and other protrusions prone to snagging nets. Diving access has been carefully thought out, with some parts of the ship closed off where the risk of entrapment was of concern. Items inside the ship that could snag or damage diving equipment have been removed.

The Navy spent a further \$3 million on berthing and towing, and has funded ongoing risk assessment studies on sinking ships as artificial reefs, in line with its plan to donate more decommissioned vessels to marine life and the sport diving leisure industry. Florida State University has calculated that the wreck of the USS Oriskany could boost local tourism revenues by \$92 million a year.

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## **GHOSTLY CORAL BLEECHINGS HAUNT THE WORLD'S REEFS**

**By Michael Perry, March 13, 2006**



SYDNEY (Reuters) - When marine scientist Ray Berkelmans went diving at Australia's Great Barrier Reef earlier this year, what he discovered shocked him -- a graveyard of coral stretching as far as he could see.

"It's a white desert out there," Berkelmans told Reuters in early March after returning from a dive to survey bleaching -- signs of a mass death of corals caused by a sudden rise in ocean temperatures -- around the Keppel Islands.

Australia has just experienced its warmest year on record and abnormally high sea temperatures during summer have caused massive coral bleaching in the Keppels. Sea temperatures touched 29 degrees Celsius (84 Fahrenheit), the upper limit for coral.

High temperatures are also a condition for the formation of hurricanes, such as Katrina which hit New Orleans in 2005.

"My estimate is in the vicinity of 95 to 98 percent of the coral is bleached in the Keppels," said Berkelmans from the Australian Institute of Marine Science.

Marine scientists say another global bleaching episode cannot be ruled out, citing major bleaching in the Caribbean in the 2005 northern hemisphere summer, which coincided with one of the 20 warmest years on record in the United States.

"In 2002, it would appear the Great Barrier Reef went first and then the global bleaching followed six to 12 months later. Is it the same this time around? No," said Berkelmans.

"The Caribbean beat us to it. We seem to be riding on the back of that event. We don't know what is ahead in six months for the Indian Ocean reefs as they head into their summer." "This might be part of a global pattern where the warm waters continue to get warmer."

Other threats to coral reefs -- vast ecosystems often called the nurseries of the seas -- include pollution, over-fishing, coastal development and diseases.



### **CAN CORAL RECOVER?**

Corals are vital as spawning grounds for many species of fish, help prevent coastal erosion and also draw tourists.

Bleaching is due to higher than average water temperatures, triggered mainly by global warming, scientists say. Higher temperatures force corals to expel algae living in coral polyps which provide food and color, leaving white calcium skeletons. Coral dies in about a month if the waters do not cool.

Berkelmans said the Keppels had previously bounced back from bleaching once the waters had cooled. But if temperatures remained abnormally high then that would be much more difficult.

Many scientists say global temperatures are rising because fossil fuel emissions from cars, industry and other sources are trapping the earth's heat. Experts worry some coral reefs could be wiped out by the end of the century.

Global warming could also damage corals by raising world sea levels by up to a meter by 2100. That could result in less light reaching deeper corals, threatening the important algae.

The Great Barrier Reef -- the world's largest living reef formation stretching 2,000 km (1,250 miles) north to south along Australia's northeast coast -- was the first to experience what turned out to be global coral bleaching in 1998 and 2002.

The Keppels bleaching is as severe as those two events and scientists say the threat of widespread bleaching is moderate.

"Sea temperatures in all regions of the Great Barrier Reef are at levels capable of causing thermal stress to corals," said the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's February report.

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coral Reef Watch said the 2005 Caribbean bleaching centered on the U.S. Virgin Islands, but stretched from the Florida Keys to Tobago and Barbados in the south and Panama and Costa Rica.

Reef Watch said sea temperature stress levels in the Caribbean in 2005 were more than treble the levels that normally cause bleaching and almost double the levels that kill coral.

"Time will tell whether there was large-scale mortality or not," said Professor Robert Van Woesik from the Florida Institute of Technology in a statement issued by Australia's Queensland University. He said corals did have some ability to bounce back but that this was an unusually warm event.

### **DANGEROUS TERRITORY**

Queensland University's Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, head of a group of 100 scientists monitoring bleaching, said scientists were concerned about how close in time the two severe bleaching episodes were. "The 2006 Great Barrier Reef event comes soon after the worst incidence of coral bleaching in the Caribbean in October 2005," said Hoegh-Guldberg who also went diving on the Keppels where he said damage was extensive.

"The traces suggest we are tracking the temperature profile of 2001-2002, which led to the worst incidence of coral bleaching ... for the Great Barrier Reef," he said. In 2002, between 60 and 95 percent of the reefs that make up the Great Barrier Reef were bleached. Most corals survived but in some locations up to 90 percent were killed.

Hoegh-Guldberg said projections from 40 climate models suggested that oceans would warm by as much as three to four degrees Celsius in the next 100 years. "We're starting to get into very dangerous territory where what we see perhaps this year will become the norm and of course extreme events will become more likely," he said.

"The climate is changing so quickly that coral reefs don't keep up ... the loss of that ecosystem would be tremendous."

## **SIXTY-MILE WALK - UNDERWATER**

**Six divers in Australia have claimed a new world record after walking 60 miles under water.**

**May, 2006.**

Wearing suits, weights and thick-soled dive boots, buddy-pairs of divers worked in shifts to follow a rope-marked course across Chowder Bay in Sydney.

They took turns to sleep in four-hour blocks, and completed the task in 46 hours two less than planned. The previous record was set 23 years ago by Australian Navy divers, the Guinness Book of Records showing 52 miles as the world's longest underwater walk. One of the divers on the latest walk, David Strike, also took part in the earlier 1983 and 1976 record breaking walks.



*Jayne Jenkins on the 60-mile underwater walk*

Jayne Jenkins, the only woman on the 60-mile walk, told the Sydney Morning Herald that she had agreed to take part while jet-lagged: "I didn't realize there would only be six people," she said. "I thought there would be about 50 or 60 people all of them walking for about one hour!"

Local divers accompanied the team on their laps as observers, and spectators took part in workshops and presentations. Donations raised from the walk will go to air-ambulance service NRMA CareFlight.

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## DIVE COURSES ON OFFER:

➤ **Adel Al-Bassam:** 873-7696/Cell: 055861940/email: [adel.bassam@aramco.com](mailto:adel.bassam@aramco.com)

**PADI** Open Water, Advanced, Rescue, Emergency First Response/CPR/First Aid, DAN Oxygen Provider; Dive Master Courses ongoing. Can be tailored to meet your specific needs, Refresher classes anytime. Specialty courses please enquire. Please call for details.

➤ **Helmut Bock:** 872-7449 or 878-9727/email: [helmut.bock@aramco.com](mailto:helmut.bock@aramco.com)

**PADI** Open Water, Advanced, Rescue, Emergency First Response, DAN Oxygen Provider, Nitrox and Divemaster Courses ongoing. Families welcome -- please call for details. Refresher classes anytime. Advanced and Specialty courses (*Nitrox, U/W Navigation, U/W Photography, Boat Diver, U/W Naturalist, Multilevel Diver, Deep Diver, Night Diver, Peak Performance Buoyancy, Wreck Diver and more*) during dive trips, please enquire.

➤ **Lope J. Caacbay:** Home tel. 861-1573 or Mobile 058108699, email: [lope.caacbay@aramco.com](mailto:lope.caacbay@aramco.com)

**PADI** Master Instructor/ IDC Staff and EFR Instructor No. 600175. **IANTD** Advanced Nitrox Instructor No. 2796. **IDEA** Instructor Trainer. Year round training on PADI recreational to extended range diving/IANTD courses. Don't hang up that gear, we can still train all year round! Flexible class schedule to accommodate participants' needs. Call for more details. For further reading about IANTD, visit: <http://www.iantd.com>

➤ **John Nilsen:** 878-3839/email: [john.nilsen@aramco.com](mailto:john.nilsen@aramco.com) **NAUI** Scuba Diver (entry-level) through AI/DM.

➤ **Randy Demaree:** 878-8521 or 873-9089

**PADI** Open Water and Advanced Open Water, Rescue and Dive Master, Emergency First Aid/CPR, DAN Oxygen Provider. Other courses: PADI Deep Diver, Boat Diver, Underwater Naturalist, Wreck Diver. Courses can be tailored to meet your specific needs -- please call for details. Refresher classes anytime.

➤ **Farid Zoldjalali:** Home 875-1845 or Mobile 0504984166, email: [Farid.Zoldjalali.1@aramco.com](mailto:Farid.Zoldjalali.1@aramco.com)

**PADI** Open Water, Advanced, Rescue, Emergency First Response/CPR/First Aid, Dive Master courses are ongoing. Courses can be conducted in both Arabic and English and can be tailored to meet your specific needs. Refresher courses can be arranged anytime. For Specialty Courses, please call for details.

➤ **Colin Knight** (874-0726/878-1022/Cell: 050 101 4874 /email: [colin.knight@aramco.com](mailto:colin.knight@aramco.com))

**PADI and DAN course dates will be set up to suit you.**

- Open Water courses – schedules set up to suit the student's needs.
- Advanced Diver courses conducted during Red Sea trips
- Rescue Diver / Emergency First Response Course / DAN Oxygen Administration
- DAN Hazardous Marine Animal Course (new)
- Specialty courses in the Red Sea & Half Moon Bay (*U/W Navigation, Search & Recovery, U/W Photography, Boat/Wreck Diver, U/W Naturalist, Multilevel Diver, Deep Diver, Night Diver, Peak Performance Buoyancy*)
- Nitrox courses run anytime.
- Dive Master Course- academics & water skills can be started immediately.

➤ **Ibrahim K. Al-Haidan** (874-1257) Mobile: 050 581 9642 /email: [ibrahim.haidan@aramco.com](mailto:ibrahim.haidan@aramco.com)

- Basic Open Water Diver/Open Water Diver
- Advanced Open Water Diver
- Master Diver
- Assistant Instructor
- Nitrox Diver, Scuba Master Diver and Medical First Aid 1 and 2.



Courses can be conducted in both Arabic and English and can be tailored to meet your specific needs. Refresher courses available anytime and for Specialty Courses, please call for details.

➤ **Sheryl Wright:** 878-2796/email: [sheryl.wright@aramco.com](mailto:sheryl.wright@aramco.com) **PADI** Open Water, Advanced, Rescue, Dive Master, Emergency First Response and Refresher courses. Female only classes are also available on request.

## *2006 DDA BOARD MEMBERS*

### The Official DDA 2006 Board

We are proud to present to you the 2006 elected board members. These board members are a dedicated volunteer team that is there to ensure that all the DDA members' needs are met.

Board Positions	Contact Person	Contact Number
President	<a href="#">Radi Adzemovic</a>	874-6022
Vice-President	<a href="#">Michael Pham</a>	874-7146
Treasurer	<a href="#">Farid Zoldjalali</a>	873-6707
Secretary	<a href="#">Sean Rahati</a>	873-4672
Membership Director	<a href="#">Debbie Nanninga</a>	877-6108
Air Station Director	<a href="#">Rene Seco</a>	873-0547
Air Station Director	<a href="#">David Gruno</a>	874-5696
Equipment Director	<a href="#">Ibrahim Haidan</a>	874-1257
Equipment Director	<a href="#">Sadeq Al-Qaffas</a>	877-8502
Training Director	<a href="#">Adel Bassam</a>	873-7696
Dive Activities Director	<a href="#">Ahmad Al-Ahmari</a>	874-0883
Social Activities Director	<a href="#">Aida Rouhana</a>	877-8173
Clearwater Editor	<a href="#">Sheryl Wright</a>	874-6107
Member at Large	<a href="#">Bruce Jahnke</a>	874-7947
Website Coordinator	<a href="#">James van der Vyver</a>	874-6671
Marine Life Awareness Coordinator	<a href="#">Dr. Abdulrazack Amir</a>	877-3524



## *2006 DDA MEETING/SOCIAL SCHEDULE*



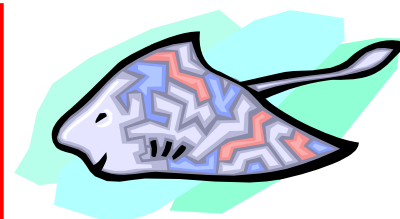
Meeting Date	Venue	Guest Speaker	Topic
Monday, May 29	Ad-Diwan, Room 1	Alfred Vouk/James	Waiting for the Big One: Um Lujj May 4-5, 2006
Monday, June 26	Ad-Diwan, Room 1	Graeme Corfield	HMS Repulse, Prince of Wales in South China Sea and Dinner
Monday, July 31	Ad-Diwan, Room 1	DDA	Local Diving and Buffet Dinner



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**GET YOUR NAME IN PRINT!**  
**SEND IN YOUR DIVE ARTICLES**  
**TELL US YOUR STORY!!**

**HELP!** Email to [sheryl.wright@aramco.com](mailto:sheryl.wright@aramco.com)  
 or send to P.O. Box 10496, Dhahran



# DDA 2006 DIVE SCHEDULE

DDA Dive Activities Director, Ahmad Al-Ahmari announces the following dive trips to help you plan early. For further information contact Ahmad Al-Ahmari [mailto:](mailto:ahmad.ahmari@aramco.com) by email: [ahmad.ahmari@aramco.com](mailto:ahmad.ahmari@aramco.com), or the relevant trip leader (see contact list below). **To sign up for any of these dive trips contact the trip leader directly.**

Date	Destination	Trip Leader/ Contact	Max Persons	Details/Cost (Approx.)
June 8 and 9	Yanbu	Farid Zoldjalali/ <i>(please contact directly for more details)</i>	16	SR 600 for 5 boat dives (3 Thu & 2 Fri) Around SR 450/night/person accommodation, transportation & food. Return Aramco Flight arrangement is Diver's responsibility.
June 29 to July 1	Rabigh Outer Reefs	<a href="http://www.scubaclubonline.com">www.scubaclubonline.com</a>	28	SR2750 on Liveaboard all inclusive. Depart 6pm Wednesday and return 10pm Saturday.
July 25 to 28	Yanbu	<a href="http://www.scubaclubonline.com">www.scubaclubonline.com</a>	28	SR2750 on Liveaboard all inclusive. Depart 6pm Tuesday and return 10pm on Friday.
Aug 30 to Sept 2	Farazan Banks	<a href="http://www.scubaclubonline.com">www.scubaclubonline.com</a>	20	SR2750 on Liveaboard all inclusive. Depart 6pm Wednesday and return 10pm Saturday.
Sept 20 to 23	Abu Latt Is. Farazan Banks	<a href="http://www.scubaclubonline.com">www.scubaclubonline.com</a>	TBA	SR2500 Camp and dive 3 day long weekend trip. Depart 2pm Wednesday and return 10pm on Saturday.
October 19 to 26	Maldives	Colin Knight <i>(please contact directly for more details)</i>	No max.	Maldives Dive trip (Bandos Island Resort). 2 L days for 6 days of diving. Cost is approx. SR7,200 sharing room and SR7,900 single room.
October 24 to 27	Jeddah Durrah AlArrus Resort	<a href="http://www.scubaclubonline.com">www.scubaclubonline.com</a>	No max.	SR3000 hotel all inclusive. Depart 8am Tuesday and return 10pm Friday.
November 9 to 10	Jeddah	<a href="http://www.scubaclubonline.com">www.scubaclubonline.com</a>	20	SR1500 Inclusive sleep on boat. Depart 8am on Thursday and return 8pm on Friday.
December 13 to 15	Farazan Banks	<a href="http://www.scubaclubonline.com">www.scubaclubonline.com</a>	28	SR2750 on Liveaboard all inclusive. Depart 6pm Wednesday and return 10pm on Friday.

**TRIP LEADERS/CONTACTS:**

Farid Zoldjalali:	email: <a href="mailto:farid.zoldjalali.1@aramco.com">farid.zoldjalali.1@aramco.com</a>	Tel: 873-6707/ 050-498-4166
Helmut Bock:	email: <a href="mailto:helmut.bock@aramco.com">helmut.bock@aramco.com</a>	Tel: 872-5951/ 878-9727
Linda Boevingloh:	email: <a href="mailto:linda.boevingloh@aramco.com">linda.boevingloh@aramco.com</a> <a href="http://www.scubaclubonline.com">www.scubaclubonline.com</a>	Tel: 878-6870 Mob: 0509268062
Bruce Jahnke:	email: <a href="mailto:bruce.jahnke@aramco.com">bruce.jahnke@aramco.com</a>	Tel: 878-6068
Colin Knight:	email: <a href="mailto:colin.knight@aramco.com">colin.knight@aramco.com</a>	Tel: 874-0726/ 878-1022
Michael Pham:	email: <a href="mailto:michael.pham@aramco.com">michael.pham@aramco.com</a>	Tel: 874-7146
Rene Seco:	email: <a href="mailto:reynaldo.seco@aramco.com">reynaldo.seco@aramco.com</a>	Tel: 873-0547

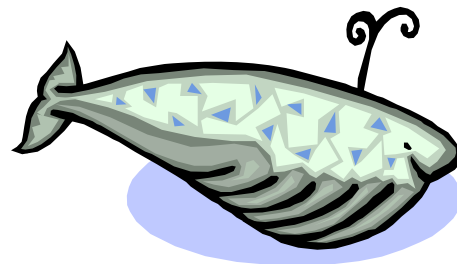
**...Just DDA It !!**  


## TANK FILL SCHEDULE



### TANK-FILL TIMES!

Opening April 3 till Sept 18  
From 4:30 - 5:00 pm  
Mondays at the Air Station



The DDA Air Station is Located behind the Third Street Pool - entry off Walnut Street. For the new 2006 Dive Season the Airstation will open on April 3 and operate until September 18.

The Air Station will be open every Monday from 4:30pm (16:30).

If you urgently require an air fill you can also contact one of the Air Station Directors (Rene Seco - 873-0547 or David Gruno - 874-5696) or one of the members on the **2006 Air Station Duty Roster** and make some private arrangements.

Mona Attas (Equipment Director) reported that we completed hydrostatic testing for all the DDA tanks and some DDA member's tanks (and they all passed). The following link explains the steps of a hydrostatic test along with pictures: <http://www.deep-six.com/page37.htm>

### Memberships Reminder

If anyone has not submitted their photos, completed the 2006 application form; with the liability waiver initialed and a copy of their most recent dive certification, please do so as soon as possible. Deb Nanninga would like to complete all of the cards and get them out. Then the database can be updated and completed.

Remember to visit our new DDA website:  
[www.dhahrandiving.com](http://www.dhahrandiving.com)



"Clearwater" Editor, Sheryl Wright

Tel: 874-6107/ 878-2796, Box 10496 Dhahran,  
Email: [sheryl.wright@aramco.com](mailto:sheryl.wright@aramco.com)

